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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

October 27. Meeting was called to order in Language Hall at 4:30 by Vice-President Merrill. There were eleven members and visitors present. The paper of the evening was on the Japanese Beetle, by Mr. Wilmon Newell, State Plant Commissioner. The speaker gave a description of the adults and illustrated it with specimens. He also outlined the life history. Only the adult form is especially injurious. They skeletonize the leaves of a large number of plants, especially ornamentals, and are very destructive. It was introduced from Japan about ten years ago and at present is confined to a limited area in New Jersey, but is rapidly extending its range each year. Owing to inadequate control measures there is great danger of its being widely disseminated. The speaker stated his belief that the beetle would become a very severe pest if introduced into Florida.

November 24. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by President O'Byrne with fourteen members present. Out of town members present were J. E. Graf and B. L. Boyden. The following new members were elected: M. D. Cody, University of Florida; Thos. H. Jones, Bureau of Entomology; U. C. Loftin, Federal Horticultural Board. The paper of the evening was by Dr. J. H. Montgomery, Quarantine Inspector, on "Some Phases of the Quarantine Work of the State Plant Board". The speaker emphasized the great danger of introducing injurious insects into Florida. There is especial danger of introducing the Citrus Flack Fly from Cuba on account of inefficient control measures. There is also great danger of introducing the European Corn Borer from New England on straw used for packing. The insect, if introduced into Florida, would probably attack sugar cane. The outlook is very promising for the eradication of the sweet potato weevil from Baker County. Every effort is being made to prevent the spread of the weevil to portions of the state not now infested. He concluded by calling attention to the real danger of introducing severe pests from Central and South America and to the fact that little is known concerning the insects in those countries.

Mr. G. B. Merrill, Assistant Entomologist, thtn gave an account of the work of the Entomological Department of the State Plant Board in connection with the quarantine in-

spector's task. Specimens sent in by the inspectors are identified if possible, but in some cases it has been necessary to refer the material to the U. S. Bureau of Entomology or elsewhere.

Under the head of "Timely Notes", Mr. Frank Stirling, General Inspector State Plant Board, gave an account of the large hornets' nest constructed during the summer at the home of President A. A. Murphree. The hornets (*Vespa canadensis*) had constructed a nest about eight feet long and several feet wide under the eaves. They were destroyed by a misty spray of kerosene and the nest removed.

Prof. J. R. Watson exhibited a map which he had prepared showing the months of average maximum and minimum precipitation thruout the state. This map showed that the rainy season starts in June in the south central part of the peninsula and spreads in both directions from this center during the four succeeding months, concluding in Palm Beach and Dade Counties in October. He also showed specimens of a new thrips, *Trichothrips drakei*, which is remarkable for its size, 3 mm.; and also specimens of the Puss Moth, exceptionally large numbers of the caterpillars of which have been sent to the Experiment Station during the fall.—H. S. Davis, Secretary.

January 26, 1920. Meeting of the Society was called to order by the Vice-President, Mr. Merrill, at 4:30 P. M. Present the following: Newell, Berger, Stirling, Merrill, Watson, Montgomery, Stone, Goodwin, Davis, Fattig, Schlobig, and Brown, members; and Mr. Dely Hunt, guest.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

This being the first meeting of the new year, annual election of officers was held. Mr. Geo. B. Merrill was elected President; C. M. Hunt, Vice-President; J. H. Montgomery, Secretary; and Dr. Davis, member of the executive committee. The business and editorial staff of the official organ of the Society, THE FLORIDA BUGGIST, were re-elected. It was moved and passed that the retiring President, Mr. F. M. O'Byrne, be requested to deliver the annual presidential address at the February meeting of the Society.

Dr. E. W. Berger, Business Manager of THE FLORIDA BUGGIST, presented a report on the financial condition of that publication. This report was received, accepted and filed.

Dr. J. H. Montgomery discussed the pink bollworm situation in Texas with more particular reference to the efforts being made by the federal and state authorities to handle the situation. The discovery of reinfestation in some of the fields in southeastern Texas last fall has been the occasion for a conference of state officials held at Houston and Beaumont early in December. Dr. Montgomery reported that the situation, although discouraging and disquieting, is not necessarily alarming. No radical changes are contemplated in the eradication methods which have been made use of other than the extension of the period of quarantine on infested fields to cover a period of not less than two years.

Mr. Frank Stirling made a further report on observations made by him in connection with the destruction of a large wasp nest. This nest or colony had become established between the walls and under the eaves of the house of Dr. Murphree. Mr. Stirling and others undertook to destroy this colony with most satisfactory results. The outstanding feature of this account was that the efficiency of the use of an oil fog to control the wasps during the destruction was demonstrated.

Dr. Berger, Entomologist, State Plant Board, made a preliminary report on the work which he is doing in producing pure cultures of the Cuban *Aschersonia*, a fungus found infecting several soft scales.

Under the head of new business, notice was given of a proposed change in the constitution to the effect that the Business Manager of THE BUGGIST shall also act as Treasurer of the Society. Under the constitution a change can only be made by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting held thirty days subsequent to the giving of notice of the proposed change.—J. H. Montgomery, Secretary.

February 23. Meeting of the Society was called to order, the President, Mr. Merrill, in the chair. Members present: Mr. Merrill, the President, in the chair. Members present: Newell, O'Byrne, Chaffin, Goodwin, Brown, Stirling, Watson, Schlobig, Berger, Montgomery and the President.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and approved.

The paper of the evening was read by Mr. O'Byrne, retiring

President, his subject being "Standardization of Nursery Inspection Rules and Requirements".

Notice of the proposed amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the Society having been given at the last previous meeting the proposed amendment was presented to be voted upon. The amendment was adopted and read as follows:

"The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. There shall be an executive committee consisting of the President, Secretary and one other member. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting in January."

Under the head of new business, Dr. Montgomery presented for consideration of the Society a proposition to change the name of the official organ of the Society. There was considerable discussion which was participated in by practically all members present, and after considering various suggestions decision was finally arrived at that the name of the publication be changed from THE FLORIDA BUGGIST to THE FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGIST, this upon motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Dr. Montgomery.

Under Timely Notes Mr. Watson, Entomologist Florida Experiment Station, displayed specimens of a spider, the "black widow", *Latrodæctus mactans*. This is said to be the most poisonous of the spider family known in Florida.

Mr. Goodwin reported a newspaper item indicating that the pink bollworm had found lodgment in Louisiana near the Texas line.

Dr. Berger made further report on production of Cuban Aschersonia, *Aschersonia cubensis*, and two or three other fungi (names not known). Dr. Berger reported that the growth of these cultures was very much slower than the yellow and red aschersonias.—J. H. Montgomery, Secretary.

OUCH!

On the first page of Bulletin 87 of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station occurs the following remark: "Many farmers now located in Arizona have had experience with it (the boll weevil) in Texas, Oklahoma and other states of the *so called cotton belt*" (*italics mine*).